



West Virginia Veterans Council

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 11, 2014

The meeting opened at 1:00 pm in the Governor's Conference Room at the West Virginia State Capitol.

Members of the West Virginia Veterans Council (* indicates present):

Chairman Randall Bare*, Mary Byrd*, James DeCarlo*, Miles Epling*, Harrison Gilliam, Cedric Greene*, C.W. Harris*, James McCormick*, Woody Williams

Minutes:

Chairman Bare called the meeting to order. With seven members present a quorum was established. A move was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion was seconded and **passed** without discussion.

Unfinished business:

James McCormick returned to discussion of a proposal that had been tabled at the previous meeting. The original proposal included designating a member of the West Virginia Veterans Council as a Legislative Council Member to coordinate and write legislation with other veterans organizations. James McCormick moved to appoint a Council Member to this position and formally agree to work with the Veterans Coalition. Motion was not seconded. **Motion Failed.**

New Business:

Secretary Thompson shared with the Council a request for the Korean Veteran Memorial currently located in the City of South Charleston to be moved to the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery. Cedric Greene motioned the Council approve this relocation contingent upon the approval of South Charleston city officials. **Motion carried.**

Secretary Thompson shared with the Council a request from the West Virginia All Airborne Chapter to place a monument at the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery. The All Airborne Chapter will fund the project. Motion made to approve the proposed monument. **Motion carried.**

Secretary Thompson shared with the Council a proposal to erect a monument in honor of Don Kinnard at the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery. Fundraisers will be needed in order to complete the project. Motion made to approve fundraisers and proposed monument. **Motion carried.**

Secretary Thompson provided an update on WVDVA facilities and offices. Highlights include the following: calls and walk-ins at field offices have increased by five times since July, 2013; Veterans Home has more than 100 residents for the first time in years; Nursing Facility is at 94% capacity; Cemetery has received no excess lottery funds, but is supporting itself; two of our bills passed during this legislative session (reorganization and land from Agriculture for second nursing home).

Laura Finley, representative of the Huntington VA Regional Office, provided updates on federal issues. Highlights include the following: Shannon Kelly has been announced as new Director of the Regional Office; claims processing time-lines are improving.

Jim Lee, Probation Officer, requested the Council's support of Veterans Courts in West Virginia. Motion made to support Veterans Courts. **Motion carried.**

Chairman Bare opened the meeting to comments from Council Members.

James McCormick voiced concern over perceived lack of communication among Council Members.

Chairman Bare introduced and recognized guests.

National Guard representative and President of the Association for Funeral Honors requested the Council's support of their efforts to provide honors at veteran's funerals. Secretary Thompson suggested he send the information to him directly and he will bring it to the Governor's attention.

There being no further business, a motion was made and the meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Heather Miles
WVDVA Public Affairs Coordinator

Rick Thompson
WVDVA Cabinet Secretary